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CONTENTS

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SSRV Regulation on Citizens' Complaints, Charges (NHAN DAN, 4 Dec 81).....	1
Counter-Revolutionaries Caught Organizing Youths (Tran Duy; TIEN PHONG, 8-14 Dec 81).....	9
Illegal Vendors Arrested (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 13 Oct 81).....	11

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

Briefs	
Excavation Group in Laos	12

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

Guidelines for Basic Level Congresses Restated (Xuan Hoa; QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, 11 Dec 81).....	13
Briefs	
Ha Bac Party Building	14
Ha Nam Ninh Congress	14
Ho Chi Minh City Youth's Activities	14

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

Quang Nam-Da Nang Redistributes Population (NHAN DAN, 7 Dec 81).....	15
Meeting Reviews Work on New Economic Zones (Hanoi Domestic Service, 23 Dec 81).....	16
New Food Subsidies for Term-Contract State Employees (LAO DONG, 3 Dec 81).....	17

'NHAN DAN' Editorial on Producing Consumer Goods (Editorial; Hanoi Domestic Service, 23 Dec 81).....	19
Editorial Scores Illegal Price Increases of Goods (Editorial; SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 16 Oct 81).....	21
Problems in Registering Businesses (Ngoc Anh; SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 16 Oct 81).....	23
Action Against Corrupt Cadres Enforced Slowly (Thai Yen; LAO DONG, 3 Dec 81).....	25
Crackdown Urged on Black Market in Building Materials (Cam Pho; SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 29 Sep 81).....	28
Illegal Sales Persist in Major Markets of Ho Chi Minh City (Nguyen Huu; SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 14 Oct 81).....	30
Briefs Hanoi Resettlers	31
AGRICULTURE	
Measures To Improve Grain Yields in Thuan Hai Reported (Dang Minh Han; NHAN DAN, 25 Nov 81).....	32
'NHAN DAN' Editorial on High-Yield Rice Areas (Editorial; Hanoi Domestic Service, 22 Dec 81).....	36
Briefs	
Minh Hai 10th-Month Rice	38
Thanh Hoa Grain Production	38
Hau Giang Grain Collection	38
Minh Hai Rice Harvest	38
Binh Tri Thien Winter-Spring Rice	38
An Giang Grain	38
Hau Giang Rice	39
HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION	
Supply Enterprise's Efforts Described (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 13 Oct 81).....	40
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	
Briefs	
Haiphong Port Activities	41
LABOR	
SRV Labor Minister Article on Labor (Dao Thien Thi; Hanoi Domestic Service, 2 Jan 82).....	42
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE	
Rat Poison in Talcum Powder Under Investigation (DOAN KET, 12 Dec 81).....	46

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SSRV REGULATION ON CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS, CHARGES

BK310400 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Dec 81 p 1

[SRV Council of State's 27 November 1981 Regulation on Processing and Settlement of Complaints and Charges By Citizens]

[Text] To intensify the people's supervision over state organs, economic, cultural and social organizations, units of the people's armed forces and personnel of these organs, organizations and units with a view of contributing toward building a correct relationship among the party, the state and the people, strengthening the socialist legal system and protecting the interests of the state and the collective and the legitimate interests of citizens;

To ensure the right of citizens to make complaints and charges; and

To establish the obligations and enhance the responsibility of leaders and leading bodies of state organs, economic, cultural and social organizations and units of the people's armed forces toward the processing and settlement of complaints and charges by citizens;

By virtue of article 73 and article 100 of the SRV Constitution;

This regulation defines the processing and settlement of complaints and charges by citizens.

Chapter I

General Stipulations

Article 1

Citizens have the right to file complaints and charges with any organ of the state against actions by state organs, economic, cultural and social organizations, and units of the people's armed forces (to be referred to hereafter as organs and organizations) or by any individual of these organs and organizations that run counter to set policies and the law and infringe on the interests of the state the collective and the legitimate interests of citizens.

Article 2

State organs have the obligation and responsibility of processing and settling citizens' complaints and charges.

Sectors and echelons have the responsibility of processing and settling complaints and charges directed against organs, organizations and personnel under their management.

Article 3

Competent state organs must process and settle complaints and charges in strict accordance with policies and the law and within the time limits stipulated in this document; strictly and justly deal with violators; set forth measures to redress damage and ensure strict implementation of their decisions; and study the causes of complaints and charges to help organs, organizations and personnel under their management correct shortcomings and errors and improve work operations.

The organs, organizations or personnel subject to complaints and charges have the responsibility to promptly carry out measures designed to redress the damage done in accordance with the decisions of the authorized state organs.

Article 4

Persons subject to damage have the right to have their honor restored and to receive compensation. The organs, organizations or personnel causing the damage must pay compensation as stipulated by law.

Article 5

Competent state organs must coordinate with the organs and organizations concerned in the processing and settlement of complaints and charges.

Article 6

Leaders or leading bodies of organs and organizations, upon discovering violations of policies and the law by their units, must deal with them promptly so as to reduce the incidence of complaints and charges.

Article 7

All actions aimed at hindering and avenging authors of complaints and charges or at condoning the persons subjected to complaints and charges are strictly prohibited.

Chapter II

Receipt of Complaints and Charges

Article 8

Citizens may file complaints and charges with the state organs concerned through letters or personal contacts. These organs have the responsibility to receive letters and the persons concerned.

State organs must maintain a system of periodic contacts with the people. The dates, times and places of contacts must be posted publicly.

Article 9

State organs must keep a log for receiving complaints and charges. If the person concerned presents the matter verbally, his statement must be noted down in full and his signature obtained.

If the complaints and charges involve matters found to be outside their authority for processing and settlement, the state organs concerned must forward them to the competent state organs and notify the persons concerned of their action within 7 days counting from the date of receipt of such complaints and charges. In cases where the persons concerned make their complaints and charges personally, they must be directed to contact the competent organs.

The competent organs must notify the persons concerned upon receipt of the complaints and charges forwarded to them.

Article 10

All complaints and charges made by the citizens through the press and radio and television stations, and all newsreports and documents concerning the citizens' complaints and charges released by the press and radio and television stations must be processed and settled by the organs and organizations concerned in accordance with the stipulations of this document.

Article 11

It is prohibited to reveal or forward letters of accusation, their copies and statements of accusation to the organs, organizations or persons under accusation.

It is not permitted to forward complaints to organs, organizations or persons under complaint if such action is found to be detrimental to the complainants.

Chapter III

Authority and Time Limits for Processing and Settlement of Complaints and Charges

Article 12

Complaints against personnel of organs and organizations shall be processed and settled by the leaders or leading bodies of those organs and organizations.

Complaints against leaders or leading bodies of organs and organizations shall be processed and settled by leaders or leading bodies of the immediate higher echelon.

Complaints against chairmen or managerial boards of cooperatives and against leaders or managerial boards of production collectives shall be processed and settled by the people's committees having direct control over these cooperatives and production collectives.

Article 13

Charges against personnel of organs and organizations shall be processed and settled by leaders or leading bodies at the immediate higher echelon.

Charges against leaders or leading bodies of organs and organizations shall be processed and settled by leaders or leading bodies at the immediate higher echelon or at the next higher echelon, depending on the nature of the matter.

Charges against chairmen or managerial boards of cooperatives and leaders or managerial boards of production collectives shall be processed and settled by people's committees at the district or corresponding level.

Article 14

After the settlement of complaints and charges by the competent organs and organizations, the persons concerned, in case of disagreement, may appeal to the immediate higher echelon of these organs and organizations.

Article 15

While processing and settling complaints and charges, state organs have the right to request that the necessary documents be furnished by the organs and organizations concerned. When called upon, these organs and organizations are obliged to honor such requests.

The people's committees at all levels, prior to settling complaints and charges concerning managerial work of a vertically higher-echelon organ, must exchange views with that organ.

Vertically higher-echelon organs, prior to settling complaints and charges concerning managerial work of a lower-echelon people's committee, must exchange views with that people's committee.

Article 16

Chairman of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government and at the corresponding level have the responsibility to process and settle complaints and charges that have already been decided upon by the leaders of subordinate organs or chairmen of the immediate lower-echelon people's committees but are contested by the persons concerned.

Article 17

Ministers, chairmen of state commissions and heads of other organs of the council of ministers have the responsibility to process and settle complaints and charges that have already been decided upon by leaders of subordinate organs but are contested by the persons concerned.

Article 18

The chairman of the council of ministers has the responsibility to process and settle:

A. Complaints and charges against ministers, chairmen of state commissions, heads of other organs of the council of ministers and chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government and at the corresponding level.

B. Complaints and charges that have already been processed and settled by ministers, chairmen of state commissions, heads of other organs of the council of ministers and chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government and at the corresponding level, when it is found that errors have been committed.

Article 19

The chairman of the state inspection committee has the responsibility to:

A. Study and submit to the chairman of the council of ministers for disposition complaints and charges concerning actions that run counter to set policies and the law by leaders of sectors at the central level or by chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government and at the corresponding level.

B. Study and propose resettlement or submit to the chairman of the council of ministers for disposition of complaints and charges that have already been resolved by ministers, heads of state commissions, heads of other organs of the council of ministers and chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government and at the corresponding level, when it is found that errors have been committed.

Chairmen of local inspection committees and heads of inspection committees of sectors have the responsibility to assist chairmen of people's committees and heads of sectors in processing and settling complaints and charges as mentioned under article 16 and article 17 of this document.

Article 20

The people's courts and people's organs of control at all levels have the responsibility to process and settle, in accordance with the procedures established by the law, complaints and charges concerning matters that fall under their area of competence.

Article 21

Mass organizations and other organizations have the responsibility to process and settle complaints and charges directed against their members in accordance with the law and their operational statutes.

If such complaints and charges fall under the competence of a state organ, they must be promptly forwarded to that organ for processing and settlement.

Article 22

Complaints that fall under the jurisdiction of the level of villages, city wards, cities and other basic units must be processed and resolved no later than 1 month following the date of receipt of such complaints; for other levels, this time limit is 3 months.

Article 23

Charges that fall under the jurisdiction of the level of villages, city wards, cities and other basic units must be processed and resolved no later than 2 months following the date of receipt of such charges; for other levels, this time limit is 6 months.

Article 24

Concerning complicated matters that require time-consuming investigation, the organs responsible for processing and settling such complaints and charges must report to the immediate higher-echelon organs and request for extension of the time limits. The extended time limits must not be more than double the time limits established under article 22 and article 23 of this document; and the persons concerned must be informed of the extension following approval by the higher-echelon organs.

Chapter IV

Control of the Processing and Settlement of Complaints and Charges

Article 25

The council of ministers controls, on a nationwide basis, the processing and settlement of complaints and charges. It guides, supervises and controls sectors and echelons in processing and settling complaints and charges.

Ministers, chairmen of state commissions and heads of other organs subordinate to the council of ministers are responsible for managing, guiding, supervising and controlling subordinate organs in processing and settling complaints and charges.

People's committees control, within the scope of their localities, the processing and settlement of complaints and charges. They guide, supervise and control subordinate organs in processing and settling complaints and charges.

Article 26

Deputies of the National Assembly and people's council, upon receipt of complaints and charges, are responsible for studying and forwarding them to the state organs concerned. Then they have to follow the settlement of these complaints and charges and inform their authors of the settlement results.

The state organs concerned must inform National Assembly and people's council deputies, to whom citizens have submitted complaints and charges, of the settlement results.

Article 27

The chairman of the government inspection commission, chairmen of inspection commissions at all levels and heads of inspection boards of all sectors are responsible for supervising and controlling the implementation of the system of receiving, processing and settling complaints and charges at all levels and in all sectors. They have the right to request the organs concerned to carry out necessary measures for ending violations conducive to complaints and charges. The requested organs must answer inspection commissions or boards within 15 days.

Article 28

The council of ministers, the people's supreme court and the chief procurator of the supreme people's organ of the control will periodically report to the council of state on the processing and settlement of complaints and charges.

The people's committees and people's courts will report periodically to the people's councils of the same levels on the processing and settlement of complaints and charges in localities.

Article 29

People's procuratorates at all levels are responsible for controlling the implementation of the law by organs and organizations in processing and settling complaints and charges.

Chapter V

Punishment of Violators

Article 30

Persons who are responsible for receiving, forwarding, processing and settling complaints and charges and who fail to comply with the stipulations in this regulation will be subject to administrative disciplinary measures.

Article 31

Persons guilty of one of the following offenses shall, according to the degrees of their offenses, be sentenced to 3 months to 3 years' imprisonment:

A. Abuse of functions and powers to obstruct the submission of complaints and charges by citizens and the processing and settlement of these complaints and charges or the punishment of those who are subjected to complaints and charges.

B. Refusal to comply with the decisions of competent organs that process and settle complaints and charges, thus harming persons who file complaints and charges.

Article 32

Persons who perpetrate revengeful acts against complainants and accusers shall be sentenced to 6 months to 6 years' imprisonment; if their vengeful acts are criminal offenses for which the law prescribes severe punishment, they will be punished according to that law.

Article 33

Persons who take advantage of the right to make complaints and charges to intentionally distort the truth and falsely accuse other persons or organs and organizations shall, according to the degrees of their acts, be sentenced to 3 months to 3 years' imprisonment.

Chapter VI

Final Clause

Article 34

Within the scope of their responsibilities, the council of ministers, the people's supreme court and the chief procurator of the supreme people's organ of control shall provide guidance for the implementation of this regulation.

Hanoi, 27 November 1981

Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Signed: Chairman Truong Chinh.

CSO: 4209/171

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES CAUGHT ORGANIZING YOUTHS

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 8-14 Dec 81 p 6

[Tale of Vigilance column by Tran Duy, the HAU GIANG newspaper: "The Person Wearing the Gold Chain 'Necklace'"]

[Text] Many strange things have recently occurred in T. Town in Hau Giang Province. A number of well dressed persons, apparently from the cities, have been frequenting the various coffee houses. Brand new "Spring" and "Super" motorbikes were seen speeding through the town to adjacent hamlets. The Trinh Nu Coffee House began playing "rock" music again, although not as loudly as before. But most of the attention was drawn by a youth who wore an expensive gold chain "necklace," wore expensive clothing and carried an expensive briefcase and had long been frequenting the house of Bay Trang; the opinion of the public concerning this youth was that he was engaged in illegal trade. Then, more and more youths began gathering at the house of Bay Trang, especially at night. The coffee house with the "rock" music also became more crowded with youths and began staying open later at night.

Mrs. Tam felt that her son, who was in 12th grade, was acting strange during this time. He was absent from the house for hours at a time, sometimes until late at night. As he sat studying, his head would begin to nod. When she asked him why he was so tired, he had all sorts of reasons: I've been studying hard, I've been busy with association activities, I've been working hard at school...

Once, Trong--her son--returned home well past midnight and appeared exhausted. Mrs. Tam was still up waiting for him:

"Why are you coming home so late, Trong?"

"It's not that late"--Trong said, irritated by her question--"I am grown up now and you have no business asking me where I go."

"But you have to go to school in the morning."

"I am about to 'drop out,' there is no sense going to school anymore! I am done with it as of tomorrow."

"Where will you go?"

"Where else is there to go?"

And, Truong told her about the plans that he and a number of other youths had to "go to the wealthy, happy countries in Europe and America where I will not have to work or study as hard as I do now, where I can enjoy myself, earn a lot of money, buy what I want; I plan to buy things to send to you, to all of you."

In his heated conversation with his mother, the more he talked, the redder his face became; the more his mother heard, the more her face expressed anger.

Truong was still excited:

"Don't worry, mother, they have a very tight organization. Because I do not have the money, I am recruiting other youths of my age. If I recruit enough persons, all of my expenses will be paid."

"If I get 'there,' I will join the 'special force' organized by the Americans and then I will be happy."

At the same time, Tu Be was excitedly talking to Lam, his friend, a member of the Communist Youth Union:

"A person from Can Tho, who was wearing a gold chain necklace, recently met me at the house of Mr. Hoi. He asked me to go overseas to learn how to train frogmen at a very high pay. He said he had a tight organization. If I recruit many persons, they will sponsor me and pay me a bonus. However, I suspect that they are reactionaries."

All of these attempts to entice youths into leaving the country were promptly and fully reported to the responsible agencies through persons such as Mr. Tam, Lam and Tu Be.

The fellow wearing the gold chain "necklace," Bay Trang and a number of others in T. Town, who were trapped by the law with all the necessary evidence, revealed themselves to be reactionaries. They were officers under the old regime who refused transformation and who belonged to a counter-revolutionary organization that specialized in deceiving and entice gullible youths into fleeing overseas, joining mercenary and spy organizations and opposing the fatherland. And, through this case, many youths in T. Town have had their eyes opened.

7809

CSO: 4209/165

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ILLEGAL VENDORS ARRESTED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 13 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by H.B.: "Illegal Vendors of Grain and Food Products Arrested"]

[Text] During the final days of September and the first days of October, the Public Security Economic Police of the 10th Precinct, with the help of the people, arrested Nguyen Thi Ngan and Bui Van Kien (who reside in the 3rd Subward of the 10th Precinct), two persons who specialized in hoarding and illegally selling various types of grain and food products. At the house of Bui Van Kien, the public security troops confiscated 5.2 tons of grain and food products of various types and more than 600 kilograms of anise flowers.

Also during this period of time, the economic police of the 10th Precinct arrested Nguyen Thua and Nguyen Thi Nhung, persons who specialized in using counterfeit papers, conspiring with others and secretly marketing various types of grain managed by the state. At the house of Nguyen Thi Nhung (the 24th Subward of the 10th Precinct) the economic police unit confiscated more than 10 tons of wheat flour. Nguyen Thua, although he recently spent 4 years in prison for the crime of kidnapping a child for a ransom, still refuses to earn a legitimate living. In nearly 1 year, he and his wife, Nguyen Thi Nhung, employing many methods of deception and conspiracy, have stolen and secretly marketed more than 30 tons of wheat flour. Nguyen Thi Ngan, Bui Van Kien, Nguyen Thua and Nguyen Thi Nhung put grain and food products into small bags, into jars, hid them behind staircases, in cabinets, under beds and so forth and secretly gave grain and food products to their agents to be marketed but they were exposed by the local people.

7809

330: 4209/162

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

EXCAVATION GROUP IN LAOS--The K-3 excavation group of the SRV ministry of building has fulfilled its 1981 plan norms in helping Laos build the (Dong Wen) Gypsum mine. It has exploited more than 40,500 tons of gypsum, overfulfilling target by 1 percent, and built 1,240 square meters of production and service area. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 28 Dec 81 BK]

CSO: 4209/171

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

GUIDELINES FOR BASIC LEVEL CONGRESSES RESTATED

hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Dec 81 p 1

[Article by Xuan Hoa: "Understanding the Position and Nature of the Basic Level Party Organization Congresses"]

[Text] The realities of a number of basic level party congresses that have already been held show that as a result of not having a thorough understanding of the position and nature of the congress, the responsibility and authority of each party member were not strongly upheld.

On the basis of this experience, it is necessary to show each party member that these basic level party congresses have the purpose of tapping the intelligence of each party member and contributing it to the results of the national party congress. Every party member must display a high sense of responsibility, the profound feelings of a communist party member and the spirit of self-criticism and criticism in order to gain a thorough understanding of the documents of the congress, focus his thinking when listening to the documents being disseminated and when preparing his opinions and enthusiastically participate in the debate at the congress, thereby contributing opinions to the congress. Every party member has the responsibility of not only grasping the basic spirit of the documents in order to express agreement or lack of agreement with them, but must also contribute his opinions to the entire party concerning the general matters facing the entire country.

During the debate at the congress, it is necessary to truly practice democracy. It is necessary to distinguish between the party congress and the conference to disseminate the congress documents and study them in order to gain a thorough understanding of and comply with them. At this congress, every opinion that is presented for discussion and debate must be examined in light of theory and practice in order to find the truth and lay the basis for achieving a high degree of unanimity. It is necessary to avoid arbitrary decisions, blind acceptance and limitations upon democracy. A number of party members who are core cadres frequently confuse party activities and government activities. In the debate, whenever someone expresses an opinion that is contrary to theirs, they "explain" the point in question and, as a result, limit the practice of democracy at the congress to some extent.

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

HA BAC PARTY BUILDING--During 1980-81 Tien Son District, Ha Bac Province, has made great efforts in eliminating negative phenomena and strengthening party discipline. It has carried out the task on distribution of party membership card satisfactorily and punished 201 members who involved in various malpractices. During the same period the district expelled 76 unqualified members from the party. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 5 Jan 82 BK]

HA NAM NINH CONGRESS--From 23-28 December, Hai Hau District, Ha Nam Ninh Province, held a party organization congress to study documents of the central government and appoint delegates to the forthcoming fifth national VCP congress. Despite numerous difficulties, the district over the past 5 years has consistently maintained its agricultural production and stabilized the people's daily life. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Dec 81 BK]

HO CHI MINH CITY YOUTH'S ACTIVITIES--Since liberation Ho Chi Minh City assault youths have reclaimed more than 37,000 hectares of virgin land, built 46 villages in various new economy zones to resettle 40,000 persons. Many youth units have engaged in agricultural production and participated in programs designed to improve the people's daily life. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 Jan 82 BK]

CSO: 4209/171

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

QUANG NAM-DA NANG REDISTRIBUTES POPULATION

BK240622 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Since liberation, the work force in Quang Nam-da Nang Province has been positively redistributed with 110,300 people sent to various new economic zones.

In addition to hundreds of thousands of people who were promptly relocated from Danang City and Hoi An and Tam Ky towns to the rural areas during the period from 1976 to October 1981, some 12,700 or more families totaling more than 80,000 people--including 31,300 main workers--have been sent to various central highland provinces.

Some 5,000 families or more totaling over 30,300 people have also been relocated from various districts to the 7 new economic zones in the province to work on small irrigation projects, build anew and repair hundreds of kilometers of road, and construct more than 20,000 square meters of housing, several medical stations, schools, creches and wells.

Those people of Quang Namdanang Province who have been relocated within the province and to other provinces, have reclaimed tens of thousands of hectares of virgin land to produce a considerable amount of grain and other agricultural products, and they are gradually engaging in the intensive cultivation of crops to increase their yield. Their livelihood has been gradually stabilized and definitely improved in such localities as Khue Ngoc Dien, Buon Trat and E Sup (Dac Lac). The first rice crop cultivated in E Sup by the people from Hoa Vang District recently yielded four tons or more per hectare. The newly cultivated land in Quang Dien by the people from Dien Ban District yielded more than 10 tons per hectare. Many of the families which have been working in the new economic zones for 3 years now have some extra products for sale while they can continue to fulfill their obligations to the state.

Up to November 1981, thousands of people were still being relocated from Hoa Vang and Dieng Ban Districts to the new economic zones in the central highlands, the labor service, the new economic zones committee, and various sector and district authorities are actively working to complete the sending of 5,000 workers to the new economic zones by the end of 1981, and to make preparations for sending more people in the first quarter of 1982.

CSO: 4209/171

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

MEETING REVIEWS WORK ON NEW ECONOMIC ZONES

BK250247 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The ministry of labor recently organized in Hanoi a conference of delegates from the labor services and bureaus and the committee for building new economic zones in northern provinces and cities--a similar conference concerning southern provinces and cities will be held in Ho Chi Minh City soon--to review the moving of workers and people to new economic zones in 1981 and discuss tasks and plans for 1982, especially the first quarter of 1982. The conference was also attended by representatives of a number of sectors--such as agriculture, finance, banking, maritime products, home trade, communications and transportation, culture and public health--and of the state planning commission.

In 1982, throughout the country some 620,000 people, including 250,000 workers, are expected to be sent to new economic zones. This figure represents an increase of 3.7 times that of 1981. The main guidelines for moving the people will consist of consolidating and improving a step further some 500,000 ha of virgin land reclaimed in previous years and building them into fields for productions; enlarging the cultivated acreage of the state farms that specialize in rice, rubber, coffee, coca and cotton and in afforestation; expanding the form of establishing sworn brotherhood between provinces, districts and villages in order to help boost grain production; and urgently and initially building infrastructure bases so as to create favorable conditions for moving workers and people to new economic zones in 1982 and subsequent years.

The conferees also discussed measures for gradually putting planning work onto the right track and performing such tasks as preparing facilities and transporting people to new economic zones.

CSO: 4209/171

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NEW FOOD SUBSIDIES FOR TERM-CONTRACT STATE EMPLOYEES

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 3 Dec 81 p 7

[Replies to Readers column: "A Number of Points in the Regulations Regarding Laborers who Work Under Term Contracts for the State (Reply to Vu Phi Tam and a Number of Readers at the Van Diem Sugar Mill in Ha Son Binh Province)"]

[Text:] As regards laborers who work under term contracts (in accordance with Premier's circular number 184-TTg dated 16 July 1974), the Ministry of Labor amended the regulations with the following several points on 28 August 1981:

--These laborers will be paid the difference between supply prices and business prices computed in accordance with the grain and food product standards for the types of laborers who perform work under contracts: they will continue to have the same sector or trade grain and food product ration standards as manual workers and civil servants (ration standards based on decision number 218-CP) but will purchase these products at business prices (prices based on decision number 220-CP), consequently, laborers who work under term contracts for the state will be paid the difference between supply prices and business prices so that they can buy these products at business prices.

Method of computation:

+ Example: a contract laborer who has a type 3 labor ration standard will receive the payment set forth in the following chart:

Standard	Ration	Price		Difference	Total Difference
		Business	Supply		Paid
Grain	19 kg	5.5 dong/kg	0.50 dong	5 dong	95 dong
Fuel	20 kg	40 dong/quintal			8 dong
Food products:					
Meat	0.9kg	35 dong/kg	3.00 dong	32 dong	28.8 dong
Fish	0.7kg	12 dong/kg	2.00 dong	10 dong	5 dong
Fishmeal	0.5 liter	9 dong/liter	1.50 dong	7.5 dong	3.75 dong
Sugar	0.7kg	16 dong/kg	2.00 dong	14.0 dong	9.80 dong
MSG	10 g/qr	200 dong/kg	15.00 dong	185 dong	1.20 dong
Total					151.55 dong/month

the amount of money paid is divided by 26 days for an average of 6 dong per day.

+ By this method of computation, the other types of labor receive the following:

Type 1 labor: 4.5 dong per day
Type 2 labor: 5.0 dong per day
Type 3 labor: 6.0 dong per day
Type 4 labor: 7.0 dong per day
Type 5 labor: 9.0 dong per day

Persons who have grain and food product standards to purchase these products at supply prices must deduct the purchases made at supply prices.

--In addition to the above mentioned payments, the other regulations, such as those on the basic wage, the food subsidies and social-public welfare subsidies will remain in effect in accordance with circular 184-TTg and circular 02 LD-TT as will a temporary food allowance in accordance with circular 07 LD-TT dated 1 June 1961.

7809
CSO: 4209/165

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

'NHAN DAN' EDITORIAL ON PRODUCING CONSUMER GOODS

BK250213 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Nhan Dan 24 December editorial: "Exploit All Existing Capabilities to Produce as Many Consumer Goods as Possible"]

[Text] As the 1981 state plan is drawing to an end, the consumer goods producing front has, despite numerous difficulties, scored more new successes. Production norms for a number of products were fulfilled or overfulfilled. These norms are reportedly slightly higher than that in 1980. Many industrial enterprises, especially artisan and handicraft establishments, have sought raw material supplies from the agricultural, forestry and marine products sectors and have made full use of discarded materials and substandard products to produce consumer goods of all sorts. Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Quang Nam-Danang and a number of other provinces and cities have obtained initial successes in turning out more new products. Such achievements are praiseworthy.

However, our consumer goods producing sector is still a weak industry incapable of meeting the people's minimal demands. The production of many kinds of essential goods such as fabrics, garments, paper, mats, bicycle spare parts and medicine has shown a decline.

We have not yet satisfactorily exploited the capabilities of thousands of centrally and locally-based state-run industrial establishments and tens of thousands of artisan and handicraft cooperatives, production collectives and teams where several million workers are employed. Difficulties in fuel and transportation have not been overcome. At present, a number of establishments have their goods piled up pending a final decision on price changes. They are reported to have had to reduce or temporarily suspend their operations. A number of problems concerning organization, management and policies have not been solved concretely.

In order to stabilize and improve the people's livelihood gradually, along with striving to develop agricultural production, we must step up the production of consumer goods. Stepping up the production of consumer goods is also aimed at increasing the sources of goods to exchange with peasants, promoting agricultural development, expanding the domestic market and contributing to increasing exports quickly.

Developing the production of consumer goods is of great significance in stimulating the developing various services and trades and in promoting agricultural development in order gradually to build agro-industrial or industrial-agricultural bases in each district and province.

Just as in agriculture, the production of consumer goods is a front involving the entire society. All kinds of labor, raw materials and handicraft professions must be exploited. All capabilities of the centrally and locally-run industrial sectors and the artisan and handicraft sectors must also be exploited in a most satisfactory way.

The council of ministers' report at the National Assembly's second session says: Under conditions of limited raw materials and energy, we must strive to ensure the fulfillment of the most important task of producing the most essential goods such as fabrics, apper and medicine.

In addition, localities and establishments must strive their best to exploit all local sources of energy and raw materials to produce consumer goods locally or to exchange with other units. It is necessary to check all the existing services and trades to see if we can restore those services and trades which are dying out; and to encourage the manufacture of more sophisticated artisan and handicraft articles and the maximum use of locally available raw materials, discarded materials and substandard products for increased production.

All state-run industrial establishments must be reorganized in such a way as to suit the specific conditions in the coming years. Emphasis must be placed on adopting effective measures to ensure the supply of raw materials. Each cooperative, village, ward, precinct and district must work out a plan to increase the production of consumer goods under which efforts must be made to make full use of all types of labor, to find raw materials and to train workers and managerial cadres.

Using all existing capabilities to produce consumer goods will meet the needs of each locality and will contribute to amassing more for the country. This is a necessary step in advancing from small production to large-scale socialist production.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

EDITORIAL SCORES ILLEGAL PRICE INCREASES OF GOODS

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 16 Oct 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Culprits Are No Other Than the Enemy and the Speculating, Price Hiking Shady Merchants"]

[Text] In continuing the implementation of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau resolution on improving the work of distribution and transportation, since 1 October 1981 the state has had the enterprise wholesale prices of commodities readjusted in the whole country. This is a correct policy line that fits the situation of production, materials and building materials supply at the present time; it also fits the price situation inside and outside the country. This is also a step forward meant to eliminate the situation of administrative interference which has dragged out over many years and to eliminate those irrational situations that stand in the way of production, distribution and commodity flow.

The readjustment of enterprise wholesale prices is an internal decision that applies to the state-operated sector of the economy. Before that, the state has made earlier readjustments in the retail prices; thus, this time around, there is no question of readjustment of retail prices.

But taking advantage of this occasion, the reactionaries and shady merchants at once collude with one another in psychological warfare activities, they repeatedly spread many inaccurate rumors so as to speculate and hoard merchandise, to raise their prices, hitting the very life of the laboring people and sabotaging our economic policy. A number of small merchants in the various markets also take advantage of this situation to raise the prices of merchandise in order to seek profit. Some owners of means of transportation have also for no reason raised the transportation fees--whereas before, they had run their vehicles on black market gasoline which is more expensive than the price at which the state sells gasoline to the people at the present time--thus creating more difficulties for travelers and adding to the prices of commodities. It is clear that the price fever in recent days in essence is an artificial phenomenon, created out of thin air by those hostile to the people and to socialism. We laboring people must be alert in identifying the criminal aspect of these vicious perpetrators who are directly attacking our bread and our daily essentials.

On 13 October 1981 the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee has issued a proclamation strictly prohibiting illegal price hikes. This proclamation must be thoroughly implemented. The market management forces at every echelon must put to effective use the administrative measures at their disposal combined with education and persuasion so as to make the tradesmen and service providers correctly

implement the regulations of the City People's Committee as regards the posting of prices and the selling according to the posted prices, not to raise prices illegally, and to fulfill all the procedures related to business registration. Those carrying out unregistered businesses are violators of the regulations and all citizens must do well their duty of paying industrial and commercial taxes. All acts of tax evasion or dodging must be strictly punished and one must go after the unpaid taxes, illegal profits made from speculation and illegal price hikes.

The daily situation of the poor laboring people does not allow us to be irresponsible or to relax market management in accordance with the promulgated state regulations, or to show the rightist tendency of dilly-dallying in cases where the application of severe administrative measures is called for in dealing with those elements intent on living off the poor laboring people and on resisting the efforts of the state meant at stabilizing the people's living conditions.

Together with the administrative measures, the state-run and cooperative trade units must insure that various commodities be supplied in accordance with the set quantitative criteria at the present stable prices; they must endeavor to expand their business, actively participate in the market economy, providing first of all the four essential commodities represented by rice, meat, dipping sauces and firewood. Reality has clearly shown that wherever and in whichever commodity the socialist commerce has had a chance to develop strongly, thus dominating the market, then the prices in such places have not fluctuated in recent days. Thus the living conditions of the local people are therefore stabilized.

The struggle to bring down the prices and stabilizing them, to fight the speculators and price hikers, and to fight the reactionaries and shady merchants in the areas of distribution and transportation constitutes one of the most crucial fronts at the present time. Many Party and government echelons are very urgently and resolutely focusing guidance on this area with a high sense of responsibility in the face of the very difficult living conditions of millions of laboring people. The laboring people of Ho Chi Minh City, all the Party members and cadres must effectively combine forces with the state organs in this struggle. First of all we must resolutely beat back all psychological warfare arguments of the enemy and of the shady merchants, refusing to listen to and to spread any information that does not come from the state, brushing off the psychology of panic found in a number of people and calmly working with the market management forces, with the socialist trade sector and others to effectively implement the measures of market stabilization in the city.

Let us focus our fight so as to hit directly the enemy and the main perpetrators in this matter of speculation as well as those who obstinately follow them.

1751
CSO: 4209/164

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

PROBLEMS IN REGISTERING BUSINESSES

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 16 Oct 81 pp 1,6

[Article by Ngoc Anh: "Remaining Problems in Business Registration and What Needs to be Done"]

[Text] At this time last year, the declaration and registration of industrial and commercial businesses in both the collective and individual economic sectors was considered the number one topic in the city. People asked about it, gave explanations and discussed the matter everywhere, in every place. Those who understood the policy felt good and rapidly drew up complete declarations which they handed in in time whereas those who did not fully understand the matter adopted a wait-and-see attitude, they wanted to feel the situation before they would draw up the declaration papers; some even went so far as to listen to bad elements, became panicky, drew up perfunctory declarations, underreported their business volume, did not report some machinery and equipment, while others even failed to make any declaration or to register their businesses.

A year now has gone by, there has been enough time for the registration of businesses to become a routine. Positive phenomena found within the industrial and commercial circles have been noted, as in the matter of price policy implementation or tax paying, but bad remnants among the traders, among those engaged in home and cottage industries or in the services still abound and can be said to be serious.

Precinct 1 and Precinct 5 are two units with 15,000 registered business households; the precincts 6, 11 and Tan Binh have listings of 10,000 to 15,000 business households in each precinct. In short, after this registration drive the number of specialized businesses registered in each district has doubled as compared with the registration drive of 1979. But generally speaking, as seen against the actual number of businesses the registered number has accounted for only 87 percent. To take a concrete example, in ward 18 of Precinct 1 the number of registered businesses includes only 1,255 households whereas in reality the number of households engaged in business amounts to 1,783. Or again, in Linh Dong (Thu Duc) town the number of those which have handed in applications for registering their businesses is 794 but in actuality there are 893 households operating a business at the present time.

Who, then, are those who did not report their businesses? The results of investigation in a number of selected localities show that the majority of them are people dealing in metal and electromechanic goods and in textile material, followed by itinerant merchants, those selling in the flea markets and along the curbs.

When asked to register, they move to another spot and dodge registration so as to evade tax. A number of those who refuse to register their businesses are composed of shady merchants who deal in forbidden goods and therefore try to evade the control of the state. Finally, there are some small business people who also fail to register.

Above is the situation of registration. What about the content of the business registrations?

Through investigation and assessment, over 50 percent of the business households give too low a figure for their capital and gross commercial receipts and 26 percent of the home and handicraft industries declare a smaller value for their production volume, hiding away their machinery, equipment and accessories.

To take a concrete example, a pork selling unit in ward 11 of Precinct 1 starts out by listing its gross as 21,000 dong per month but after control by the cadres the same household declares its gross to be 126,000 dong (!). A silversmith at Thi Nghe market (Binh Thanh) starts out by listing its gross as 800 dong per month but after reassessment the head of household acknowledges that he also buys and sells silver and that he grosses 27,000 dong per month (?).

There are many wards where the level of declaration as compared to the actual possession of machinery and equipment is very low. In one ward only, ward 18 of Precinct 1, the households engaged in commerce and industry and in the services list only 1,047 pieces of machinery and equipment and parts of all kinds but in actuality the number of means used in production amounts to 1,752 pieces, etc.

Through the above evidence it is clear that what needs to be done is to continue checking and deal very severely with those households that refuse to register their businesses. The level of sanctioning will depend on the level of obstinacy and the illegality of business engaged in by these people. In the case of those who deliberately underreport their business or dodge taxes, one must go after their back taxes and fine them.

To do better this work of business registration, one must also check and control on a regular basis, coupling this with increased price management and with market management, thus getting all production and business activities to fall into a pattern and limiting to the lowest level all negative phenomena on the market.

1751

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

ACTION AGAINST CORRUPT CADRES ENFORCED SLOWLY

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 3 Dec 81 p 3

[Article by Thai Yen: "Violations That Have Not Been Appropriately Dealt with in the Haiphong Commerce Sector"]

[Text] On 25 September, the Haiphong Municipal People's Committee issued notice number 181 on violations in the distribution of goods by three units within the commerce sector, which set forth specific steps to be taken after the case has been analyzed and agreement concerning it has been reached between the economic sector and the legal sector. According to the conclusion set forth in the notice, these mistakes "were of a serious, repeated, open and brazen nature and caused indignation on the part of cadres, manual workers and the people."

They Did Something Even Though They Knew It Was Wrong

This is one thing about which we can be certain concerning the actions of the cadres in charge of the three units cited in the notice, the Inner City Retail Hardware Corporation, the Minh Khai General Merchandise Store and the Lac Vien Market Food Products Store. We shall present in sequence the events that occurred, events that stirred the indignation of the entire city of Haiphong during this period of time.

In April and May, the Municipal Party Committee and People's Committee convened a meeting of the units in the finance and commerce sectors to discuss the plans for implementing Political Bureau directive 109 on improving circulation and distribution and Council of Ministers' decisions 218 and 219. The municipality directed the Minh Khai General Merchandise Store to prepare a labor force, balance its supply of goods and guide the distribution of each specific product to support the new campaign, thereby helping to manage the local market well. Learning of this, the head of the Level II Cloth and Fiber Corporation went and talked with the deputy head in charge of business of the Minh Khai General Merchandise Store about trading goods with the Xuan Hoa Town General Merchandise Store in Hanoi. With this person acting as a middleman, the assistant head of the Minh Khai store released and sold to the Xuan Hoa store 10,126 meters of cloth (including 4,908 meters of si-mi-lì [Vietnamese phonetics], 2,387 meters of knitted cloth and 4,985 meters of a synthetic blend). In addition, there were a number of aluminum products. The products were worth a total of 679,000 dong.

The Xuan Hoa store sold back to the Minh Khai store goods worth 78,000 dong. Worthy of mention among these products were 1,250 bicycle tires (400 grade 1 tires). When the tires arrived, the leader of the store distributed 350 grade 1 tires within the store itself and gave 114 tires to a number of other "generous" agencies.

Also in May 1981, taking advantage of the time when a number of regulations and methods of distribution were being amended and the prices of some aluminum goods were being adjusted, the leader of the Haiphong Inner City Retail Hardware Corporation hastily sold 17 "Seabreeze" ceiling fans at a price of 320 dong apiece. Of the 17 fans that were sold, 14 were purchased within the corporation. The Commerce Service purchased one and two were sold on the outside. In actuality, this person on the outside was 10 times closer to the leader than the person on the inside. As it turned out, this was nothing more than a way to bribe or put the person on the outside into a position of "keeping quiet."

In August 1981, the weather was very hot and the price of white sugar on the free market rose to 45 dong per kilogram; Haiphong planned to raise the price of white sugar (which was imported through funds from the local budget) from 30 to 35 dong per kilogram and begin selling white sugar on the basis of letters of introduction accompanied by product purchasing books from agencies and enterprises. However, because he had the notice in his hands 1 day early, the leader of the Lac Vien Market Food Products Store sold 2,657 kilograms of white sugar at the old price of 30 dong per kilogram to persons both within and outside the store. The unit that purchased the most sugar was the Route 14 Worksite Construction Committee, which purchased 1,000 kilograms (the exact amount has yet to be determined); the unit that purchased the second largest amount was the Foreign Trade Medical Aid Clinic, which purchased 350 kilograms (an inspection revealed that only payment for 20 kilograms was deposited by the medical aid station in its fund). Each person employed by the store purchased at least 25 kilograms, with one person purchasing 200 kilograms. After all the sales receipts were added together, the difference was 628 kilograms for which no purchasers could be found even though all the money had been collected!(!?)

Intentionally Dragged Out

We still remember when, in late 1980, several units within the Haiphong commerce sector committed a string of serious mistakes in the distribution of goods and internal management. When the city decided to reorganize the operational apparatus of the commerce sector to be consistent with the division of management levels (by sector and territory) and to disband the Metals and Chemicals Corporation and the Industrial Goods Corporation in order to establish two inner city wholesale and retail corporations, the leader of the Metals and Chemicals Corporation "set the example" by distributing to the personnel within his unit (and to himself as well) a number of goods, such as bicycle chains and tires, table fans and valuable electrical appliances. The Industrial Goods Corporation sold to its personnel large aluminum pots and pans (imported), attractive cloth, thermos bottles, white plastic sandals, laundry powder and so forth.

The city worked very hard to investigate the case, revamp the organization and deal with the mistakes that had been made. Taking advantage of the period of organizational

transition, persons of authority within the sector at that time frantically bought and sold products, made deals and stockpiled goods. In its business dealings, the Minh Khai General Merchandise Store has been known for many years as a clever, resourceful and bold organization. However, in essence, its business is designed to protect "the legitimate interests of the store." The last time that there were shocking, intentional violations such as the sale of lightbulbs, razor blades, soap, toothpaste, cloth and so forth, the Minh Khai store was clearly the store that "completed the file for prosecution."

As regards the persons and the specific actions in this case of intentional violations and haphazard distribution of goods, the Municipal People's Committee set forth a clear-cut decision: to reclaim all 14 of the fans sold internally. Anyone who does not return a fan must pay for it at the current market price, with the payment being gradually deducted from his wages. As regards the two fans sold on the outside, the person who approved the sale must pay the difference between what the fans were sold for and the current market price. The persons who were directly involved in these violations must clearly state where they purchased their goods and then leave or temporarily step down from their job so that a review can be conducted. Each individual case must be resolved within 9 months. The organ of control and the inspection department of the municipality and the Commerce Service are responsible to the people's committee for rapidly concluding this matter.

To date, however, although more than 2 months have passed, the goods have not been reclaimed, not 1 xu in payment for the price difference has been collected and a few persons in charge have not been dealt with appropriately. The skepticism and concern of the masses are growing with each passing day.

When a person makes a willful mistake, he is sure to look for a way to avoid committing a shortcoming. The persons who intentionally made money from the capital of the state and seriously harmed public property must be widely denounced by public opinion and dealt with under the law in a prompt and thorough manner.

7809

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

CRACKDOWN URGED ON BLACK MARKET IN BUILDING MATERIALS

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 29 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by Cam Pho: "State Building Materials on Sale on the 'Free' Market"]

[Text] At the foot of the Can Met Bridge along the Chuong Duong wharf in the 1st Precinct, along Dien Bien Phu Road between the foot of the Phan Thanh Gian Bridge and Hang Xanh intersection, on Ly Thuong Kiet Road near the Tan Binh Market, at the Ham Tu wharf in the 5th Precinct and so forth, places have been established that sell cement, iron, steel, lumber, roofing material, chemicals and so forth, which are building materials that are under the exclusive management of the state.

By looking at an opened bag of cement sitting in an earthenware jar so that cement can be scooped from it, one can very easily mistakenly think that the person selling the cement is only selling it 1 kilogram at a time to persons who need cement to repair a tile roof, to repair a wall and so forth. However, such is not the case. This is only a method of camouflage employed by the person selling the cement to protect himself against inquiries by an economic inspection unit or market management committee. Behind these rows of stands are warehouses of cement, warehouses that have as much cement as you might need!

The section of Dien Bien Phu Road between the foot of the Phan Thanh Gian Bridge and Hang Xanh intersection is also a "gathering point" at which large quantities of cement are sold. Prior to liberation, this place was one of the central markets for building materials: cement, sewer pipes, fibro cement roofing material, "ban cau" and so forth. After liberation day, these persons operated in a very cautious manner and they have only come into the open in the past few years. Like the stands at the foot of the Can Met Bridge, the stands here only display manufactured products, such as sewer pipes, "ban cau" and so forth and only bring out the cement when someone asks to buy some.

The most obvious sale of these products is perhaps at the stores along Ly Thuong Kiet Street near the Tan Binh Market. Here, all sorts of products are sold, from lumber to iron, steel, roofing material and so forth. A piece of semi-finished lumber sells at a price four to five times as high as the state price; round construction iron costs 20 dong per kilogram; the prices of cement, bricks and sand are also high. The prices of these products rise and fall depending upon supply and demand.

the persons who do business in building materials are very clearly aware of the fact that these products are sold only by the state. However, they disregard every regulation of the state in order to engage in illegal trade for one simple reason, to make high profits, to 'grab up' much money. They are very clever. Someone who has cement or iron and steel to sell naturally keeps it hidden for fear that someone else will see it, consequently, they have a chance to push prices downward and buy these products cheaply.

Here, we are not trying to gain a deep understanding of the reasons why goods flow onto the free market from within our economic sectors, but only point out a number of problems in the market management and transformation of this sector.

When registering businesses, the majority of the precincts and districts do so on the basis of statements made by private individuals concerning the sector in which they do business and then issue a business license. Some places, because they place heavy emphasis upon business revenues, are lax in management in order to enable persons to do business in sectors other than that for which they are registered. As for the private individuals involved in this, they think that paying taxes to the state makes everything "legal" and continue to engage in illegal trade. They show their tax papers to anyone who questions them.

The persons who buy and sell building materials have long established links between the places of production and distribution and their private "warehouses." They change their method of operation from time to time. After we intensified the management of the market, they began using more than a few rudimentary transportation forces. Semi-finished wood is brought into the city on bicycles. Even pottery products such as jars are transported by bicycle. These are shipments of smuggled goods to which few persons are giving attention.

The second illegal method of earning a living to which attention must be given is the purchase of raw materials and the sale of semi-finished products by some private households. Water pipes, "cotton" bricks, roofing material, sewer pipes and so forth are manufactured by these households or manufactured for them by persons they hire. In this way, if they have a business license, they need only pay tax once, need only pay the income tax even though they should be paying business taxes and commercial taxes; if they do not have a business license, they consider themselves to be evading taxes twice.

At the places where building materials are being bought and sold, in addition to households that have business licenses, there are more than a few private individuals buying and selling products who do not have a business license. And, the number of persons selling products along the sides of the roads and the sidewalks at these places is growing with each passing day. In the recent past, the market management committees in each precinct have only focused their efforts on the various markets and have only managed goods that are essential to the two daily meals while being somewhat lax with regard to other products.

The problem faced now is that the related sectors and levels must immediately stop the illegal trade in building materials that are under the exclusive management of the state.

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

ILLEGAL SALES PERSIST IN MAJOR MARKETS OF HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 14 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by Nguyen Huu, the 11th Precinct: "Offered at One Price, Sold at Another"]

[Text] While passing through the two major markets of the city, the Ben Thanh and Binh Tay Markets, we still saw many merchants selling goods at prices higher than posted prices. Specifically, the stands selling cloth, art products, electrical appliances and shoes and sandals at the Ben Thanh Market are not selling their products at posted prices. A cloth stand has a posted price of 140 dong for 1 meter of KT Japanese cloth but when a customer asks to buy some, the salesperson clearly stated that it costs 195 dong!

Another matter to which attention must be given is that some stands have no posted prices.

We suggest that the various markets must conduct a thorough inspection with regard to the posting of prices and selling goods at the prices that are posted as stipulated by the city people's committee and regularly teach small merchants to respect the laws of the state and respect their customers.

7809

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

BRIEFS

HANOI RESETTLERS--Hanoi Municipality last year sent 465 families of 2,242 persons, including 1,293 workers to various new economic zones in Lam Dong Province. To date the province has resettled 2,438 families of 13,771 persons, mostly from Hanoi. These people have engaged in agricultural production, built 2 state farms, 11 agricultural cooperatives, 2 technical centers, 4 industrial production enterprises and many public welfare establishments. The province plans to resettle about 500 families of 2500 persons in 1982. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Jan 82 BK]

CSO: 4209/171

AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO IMPROVE GRAIN YIELDS IN THUAN HAI REPORTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 25 Nov 81 p 2

[Article by Dang Minh Han: "In Order to Increase Grain Yields in Thuan Hai"]

[Text] At the end of 1980, Thuan Hai province had 937,000 inhabitants, including 403,000 primary labors, 75.60 percent of which were agricultural. Its farms covered 105,000 [as published] hectares, of which 141,960 were cultivated; grain crops alone covered 125,255 hectares. With its relatively rich land potential and labor force, Thuan Hai province has created a very promising basis for advancement.

Strength and weakness in agricultural production

After the total liberation of the South, like several other provinces, Thuan Hai had to be assisted by central echelons with tens of thousands of tons of paddy yearly. Through 5 years of reeducation, building and development, the province has persistently struggled to gradually advance agriculture. It has progressed under difficult, complex conditions: 30 years of destructive war; three years of crop failure caused by unfavorable weather; rather serious social evils left behind by the U.S.-puppet neo-colonialist regime; the limited knowledge of economic management of cadres and party members who have had to learn while working.

The population has increased rather rapidly, from being 945,000 in 1976 to 937,000 in 1980, thus increasing by nearly 2,000 yearly. However, Thuan Hai has been able not only to have enough grain for itself but also to contribute it to the State.

Land in Thuan Hai has been expanded yearly thanks to reclaiming and opening new land. Farms covered 96,000 hectares in 1976; 99,500 in 1977; 101,750 in 1978; 102,500 in 1979; 105,000 in 1980. Also, cultivated areas increased from being 117,000 hectares in 1976 to 141,960 in 1980; in paddy equivalent, the grain production increased from being 220,501 tons in 1976 to 268,117 in 1980.

The Thuan Hai party chapter has paid attention to its leadership over intensive cultivation to increase crop production, by soil improvement through water conservancy, through the use of fertilizers and insecticides, and through applications of agricultural and technological advances, and, especially, in the strong

development of the collective production movement, consolidating the 266 cooperatives which were created during the past years. Simultaneously, agricultural product contracts have been implemented properly and in a timely manner. The area for subsidiary food crops has expanded (from 33,543 hectares in 1976 to 75,250 in 1980); the crops being mainly corn, manioc, sweet potato, kaoliang, etc. The labor force has also been assigned rationally and with relatively good planning.

Concerning production relationships, the province has basically got rid of exploitation in rural areas, bringing the majority of the peasants into collective production. Many new factors have appeared there. The new regime, that of collective mastership and new, socialist economy, has been established on the basis of simultaneously carrying out the three revolutions. The people's living conditions, though not yet optimum, have stabilized and improved gradually.

However, when referring to "Comrade Secretary General Le Duan's Speech at the first meeting of the Seventh National Assembly," [in boldface] the Thuan Hai cadres and people see that they still have shortcomings that must be overcome in order to advance. The province still is in the general situation of slow economic development, especially in agriculture. It could have reached higher plan standards; but, due to certain limitations, the productivity and yield of crops and animal husbandry are still below standard (while reaching 91.40 percent of the final, adjusted standard, they only reached 71.40 percent of the standard adjusted by the second congress of the province party chapter and only 62.00 percent of the initial standard). If it had had good guidance and management of land, material supplies and technological procedures, and proper crop structure, the ability of Thuan Hai to reach 300,000 tons of grain would have been realistic.

It should be noted that the labor force has not been fully nor rationally used; people of working age have been jobless, negative phenomena in agriculture have not been overcome with determination...

In contrast to the strength of centralized agricultural leadership, which has advanced agriculture gradually, in certain localities and at certain times committed echelons still have not yet deeply understood the lines and policies of the Party and State on building and developing agriculture, have not yet created a strong revolutionary movement among the masses, have not yet stuck to realities while leading, were still too hasty (in a number of initial plan standards), have not yet organized and trained the contingent of agricultural cadres in regard to their total abilities--a decisive factor in bringing every success to the revolution.

When organizing implementation, certain localities at certain times failed to specify the Party's policy lines and resolutions, and not developing them carefully; lower echelons were often confused when organizing implementation and did not work in synchronization, etc. But the important point here is that planning was not in strict consonance with nor based upon the available material-technological bases to compute accurately and to fully use the agricultural potentials. Investment has not been balanced, particularly concentrating on water conservancy from which the yield, in production has not been much....

Concrete measures, synchronized organization and implementation

In accordance with common aspirations, echelons and sectors in the province need to study the problem of economic development in agriculture more intensively. Sectors need to see that they are to serve agriculture mainly. This is a primary, strategic problem.

Responding to the building and developmental needs of the economy and society, the province has determined the economic direction and strength of every sector on the basis of its four areas of strengths--agriculture, forestry, fishery, and small industry and handicrafts. The planning task is to go from an individual, dispersed economy into the orbit of a collective, province-wide economy. It broadens and strongly develops product contracts among worker groups and workers, establishes comprehensive economic standards, especially standards which achieve economic results and create capital for investment, establishes productivity standards, accumulation and consumption standards, standards for the development and application of technological advancements in agriculture, forestry, fishery,...

At least 70.00 percent of the labor force in agriculture is assigned to cultivation, 20.00 percent to animal husbandry, 10.00 percent to forestry. In cultivation, half of the labor force must engage deeply in intensive cultivation to establish about 4,000 hectares of grazing grounds for animal husbandry, of which 1,000 hectares are new lands.

It is necessary to correct the conception that when referring to animal husbandry, one immediately thinks about raising pigs more than other animals. The province pays proper attention to raising bovines so as to increase draft force (with soil such as in our province an additional 15,000 oxen are needed to temporarily have enough draft force to work the soil). Thuan Hai soil is suitable for the development of coconut tree, rubber tree, cashews (it grows on 60,000 hectares of sandy soil in Le Hong Phong region, Bac Binh), sesame, melons, sweet potatoes, manioc..., which create a reciprocal support between rice and other crops. The province also pays attention to the processing crops to meet the consumption needs of the people in the province and the country and for export.

Right now the Thuan Hai province committee has several positive measures to create bases for new changes in 1982 and subsequent years: conduct short-term training courses, such as on-the-job economic management courses for 96 core cadres of the province and district VCP secretaries and [people's committee] chairmen, six training courses on duties and mission for 700 village cadres within the whole province (essentially in the rural areas); to step up propaganda and education, organizing studies of comrade Secretary General Le Duan's important speech given at the first meeting of the seventh National Assembly; to organize surveys to strictly control the available land, labor force, and material bases; to coordinate agricultural reform and production development; to have appropriate encouragement policies and concrete plans for building new rural areas; to actively overcome negative phenomena in production; and above all, to closely coordinate agricultural and industrial productions, to coordinate economy building and national defense consolidation, and to strengthen the protection of production and revolutionary achievements.

With the land potentials and the labor force, and under the close leadership of the province committee, it is certain that the grain problem in Thuan Hai will overcome difficulties and will be solved gradually and steadily, thus contributing to improving the living of the people in the province and making worthy contributions to the enterprise of building and defending the socialist Fatherland.

8418

CSO: 4209/146

AGRICULTURE

'NHAN DAN' EDITORIAL ON HIGH-YIELD RICE AREAS

BK231022 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Nhan Dan 23 December editorial: "Build High-Yield Rice Areas"]

[Text] Building high-yield rice areas constitutes a major policy for developing agricultural production which is being actively implemented. The objective of this policy is to develop grain producing areas rapidly with an increasingly higher output and an ever greater and steadier amount of marketable grain. The state is expected to build, under the third 5-year plan, high-yield rice areas covering 33 percent of the area put under rice to produce 8.5 million tons of paddy--47 percent of the entire country's annual paddy output. These rice areas will be built in a standardized manner and capable of limiting the damage caused by natural calamities to the minimum and better exploiting local favorable conditions. Many localities already have natural, concentrated rice areas with relatively favorable soil conditions.

Our people have long accumulated experience in intensive farming. By relying on the existing facilities to plan and perfect the areas already formed and set up new ones with increasingly better material and technical conditions and a progressive managerial system, we will be able to create firm intensive and specialized farming areas with high output and low production costs. High-yield rice areas will also serve as suitable places for applying technical innovations, improving management, training and fostering cadres and reviewing upon experience.

The building of high-yield rice areas must be carried out step by step--from a low to high level and from a small to large scale. In the first phase beginning with the forthcoming 5th-month-spring crop season, high-yield rice areas will be set up in 185 out of 411 districts of the entire country--including 63 out of 67 districts in the Red River Delta, 27 out of 53 districts in former zone 4, 15 out of 48 districts in the central coastal plains, 32 out of 77 districts in the Mekong Delta, and 47 out of 110 districts in the northern midland and mountainous regions [all figures as heard]. At present the agricultural sector is working together with other sectors and the various localities to assess the conditions of each area and continue to devise the necessary measures. The districts and villages--units that will directly build rice areas and guide production work--must organize discussions widely among peasants and cadres directly in charge of guiding production.

Building high-yield rice areas is meant not only to increase investment but also to enforce a series of measures in the organizational managerial, technical, ideological and policy making fields. Building high-yield rice areas with a large number of marketable agricultural products is also meant to go from small-scale production to large-scale production and to carry out simultaneously the three revolutions in a realistic and lively manner. Cooperatives and production collectives must be consolidated in all respects and closely linked with the district into an integrated whole--with the latter serving as the center for guiding grassroots-level units in practicing intensive farming.

Averaging and scattered investment does not bring about appropriate results and it causes waste. Nevertheless, when shifting to make concentrated investment in high-yield rice areas, we must also pay appropriate attention to other rice areas and strive our best to work diligently and apply in the most satisfactory manner age-old experience as well as modern techniques. It is impossible to open high-yield rice areas en masse. It is necessary to create the necessary conditions and build them firmly step by step, first of all by preparing the material and technical conditions concerning water, seed allocation pattern and so forth. The plan for building high-yield rice areas must be geared to the specific conditions of each small area and each ricefield so that compatible productivity and output targets and technical measures can be decided upon in an appropriate manner.

Giving out end-product contracts to workers is a progressive contract system that must be broadly and properly applied by the production units in high-yield rice areas. Key high-yield rice areas by and large must become models for the implementation of the new managerial system and the application of the various intensive farming techniques in the entire area. This is really a direction for the development of our agriculture.

CSO: 4209/171

AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

MINH HAI 10TH-MONTH RICE--As of 24 December, Minh Hai Province had harvested 60,000 tons of 10th-month rice with an average yield of 25 quintals per hectare. Thanks to the new rice varieties, Vinh Loi District took the lead with a yield of 45 quintals per hectare. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Dec 81 BK]

THANH HOA GRAIN PRODUCTION--Thanks to the expansion of product contracts with labor groups and laborers, in 1981 Thanh Hoa Province was able to produce 687,000 tons of grain converted to paddy equivalent. This figure shows an increase of some 250,000 tons over 1980. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Jan 82 BK]

HAU GIANG GRAIN COLLECTION--As of 30 November, Hau Giang Province had delivered 273,517 tons of paddy to state granaries, thus overfulfilling its grain collection target for 1981 and producing an increase of 100,000 tons over 1980. This success was the result of the combined efforts made by the party organization, administration and people of Hau Giang. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 5 Jan 82 BK]

MINH HAI RICE HARVEST--By late December, Minh Hai Province had harvested more than 60,000 hectares of 10th-month rice with an average yield of 2.5 tons per hectare. Gia Rai and Vinh Loi Districts alone accounted for more than 21,000 hectares each. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Jan 82 BK]

BINH TRI THIEN WINTER-SPRING RICE--Binh Tri Thien Province has planted 84,000 hectares of winter-spring rice and is supervising cooperatives to prevent more than 18,700 hectares of low-lying ricefields from being damaged by waterlogging. The province has mobilized the local workforce to drain many sluices and ditches to ensure to smooth flow of water from low lying areas. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Jan 82 BK]

AN GIANG GRAIN--In 1981, An Giang Province planted 320,300 hectares of grain or 54,700 hectares more than the previous year. This included 86,300 hectares of rice. The province last year expanded an additional of 9,500 hectares of winter-spring rice, on the average, the per capita grain production in An Giang Province last year was 594 kg per person or 14 kg more than the previous year. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Jan 82 BK]

HAU GIANG RICE--Hau Giang Province is striving to obtain an average yield of 3 tons of winter-spring rice per hectare. On 5 January alone, peasants in the province sowed more than 23,000 hectares of winter-spring rice. They have harvested 110,000 hectares of 10th-month rice in various areas with an average yield of 2.4 tons per hectare. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jan 82 BK]

CSO: 4209/171

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

SUPPLY ENTERPRISE'S EFFORTS DESCRIBED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 13 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by P.H.N.: "The Zone 2 Materials Supply Federation Exploits Materials To Support Production"]

[Text] Since the start of the year, the Zone 2 Materials Supply Federation has supplied various types of materials (excluding petroleum products) amounting to 72 percent of its plan for the entire year to production installations from Phu Khanh to Minh Hai.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the federation has directly supplied many types of chemicals, bicycle frames and gears, iron, steel and electric wire to the machine sector, the building sector and the motorcycle-bicycle sector.

During the past 9 months, the federation accelerated the signing of contracts with production installations and purchased 3,500 tons of rubber, 4,500 storage batteries, 10,600 tons of galvanized steel and 2,000 tons of recycled steel.

Together with inspecting the materials used by production installations and the results of the delivery of products to the state by production installations, the Zone 2 Materials Supply Federation has actively prepared warehouses and storage yards for receiving a large quantity of metal and vehicles of various types over and above its norms during the 4th quarter of 1981. The federation is also re-examining each of its norms concerning important, urgently needed products in order to coordinate with the general material corporations of the federation so that goods from various sources can be rapidly received. The federation is also concentrating its efforts on providing a well coordinated supply of materials to enterprises that are capable of producing products during the 4th quarter, thereby limiting the production of unfinished products. The federation is accelerating the development of existing domestic sources of materials, such as pine pitch, terebenthene, "tung tieu" oil, bauxite, kaolin and so forth in Lam Dong and Dong Nai.

7809
CSO: 4209/162

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

BRIEFS

HAIPHONG PORT ACTIVITIES--To score achievements to greet the forthcoming fifth VCP congress, Haiphong Port in December unloaded 220,000 tons of goods from 39 vessels. Thanks to the reorganization of the working system, the pace of unloading has been quicker and warehouses are better maintained. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Jan 82 BK]

CSO: 4209/171

LABOR

SRV LABOR MINISTER ARTICLE ON LABOR

BK051110 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Nhan Dan 2 January article by Dao Thien Thi, SRV minister of labor and head of the Central Steering Committee for the distribution of labor and population: "On the Distribution of Labor and Population to Employ Social Labor Effectively"]

[Text] Since the day of national liberation and reunification, our people have become masters of their country and gained the freedom to work to defend the fatherland and build socialism. Labor is the most precious asset of our country. Our national labor force is massive and it is rapidly developing in terms of both quality and capability, especially in agriculture and the various branches and trades involving handicrafts. The industrial work force is also developing in the construction industry.

Due to many reasons, however, our country's labor force is unevenly distributed and under employed. Unemployment is high. Labor productivity in the various sectors of the national economy is low and so is social labor productivity. This is an irrational and abnormal situation that brings about negative results: The national economy is developing slowly; national income derived from domestic production is insufficient to cover expenditures; and the lives of certain people, especially workers and cadres, are still faced with many difficulties.

A large labor force is at our disposal. Employing this labor force more fully and rationally is a pressing requirement in the economic, political and social fields that must be met to ensure social security and order. This is a practical possibility. The right to collective mastery of the youths coming of work age consists of the right to employment by which they can work selflessly for the fatherland and socialism. This is the most important goal and measure of the state plan, the economic plans of all sectors and localities, and the plans of all establishments.

The state plan is an economic and social plan which is aimed at arranging work for the social labor force in accordance with a rational economic structure--a rational agro-industrial structure for the short term--and with a rational distribution of labor for each region, each establishment and each locality as well as for the entire country. It is also aimed at practicing intensive cultivation, multicropping, enlarging croplands and promoting the various branches and trades while developing agriculture--both crop cultivation and livestock breeding--forestry, fishery, con-

sumer goods industry--including both artisan and handicraft industries--some essential heavy industry branches and other economic and social operations.

The development of economic activities within a rational structure, coupled with the distribution and employment of social labor, will lead to full employment, higher labor productivity in every economic sector and higher social labor productivity. We must project about 10 million new jobs under economic and social plans every year, primarily in agriculture for practicing intensive farming and multicropping, promoting livestock breeding, enlarging croplands and developing the various branches and trades, as well as in forestry, fishery and industry.

This is a very important requirement and a very complex task that must be resolved--from achieving a general balance for the national economy in a rational industrial-agricultural economic structure that ensures the advancement of agriculture to large-scale socialist production, to achieving a balance in every district on the basis of fully utilizing all the local lands and labor and comprehensively exploiting all the existing resources and labor to settle the problems facing the district so as to contribute most effectively to carrying out national tasks.

The need for full employment of social labor calls for developing the national economy both in width and depth--enlarging agricultural areas and promoting new branches and trades while practicing intensive farming and multicropping to ensure the highest social economic results; creating more job opportunities to employ idle labor usefully while increasing individual labor productivity in every establishment and sector, rationally organizing labor and taking systematic steps toward organizing labor scientifically; and using organized manual labor on a small or medium scale at the various worksites while utilizing semimechanized and mechanized labor and in some cases, modern technology--with manual and semimechanized labor being dominant.

The need for full employment of social labor calls for expanding the domestic market, including services; broadening relations with the international market; promoting exports; turning out agricultural goods, processed agricultural products, handicrafts items and fine art products for export; contracting orders for goods from the world market under all forms; and entering into labor cooperation with fraternal countries and other suitable countries to improve the skills and capability of workers and cadres in all respects.

In order to provide vocational training for millions of both sexes in our country who leave general education schools for the labor market every year, it is required that in carrying out educational reform, general education should be combined with vocational guidance and training in different forms everywhere so that young men and women, upon entering a life of labor, are well prepared in all respects, especially in skills, and ready to work in accordance with the social division of labor in order to make their greatest possible contributions to the common revolutionary cause to the country.

In the coming years we will strive to achieve full employment and organize the utilization of social labor in a more rational manner. This is a very basic orientation of strategic significance and at the same time, of a very pressing and practical nature, particularly in the cities and industrial centers--especially Hanoi and Ho

Chi Minh City--arranging employment for the laboring people, youths of work age, graduates from secondary education schools and persons who have completed military obligation is a primary task. State organs from the central to local level must exert the greatest possible efforts to resolve this issue of great political, economic and social impact so that the youths and laboring people in the cities, first of all Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, will be usefully employed.

To ensure fuller employment of social labor, along with enforcing various measures to use local labor, we must redistribute labor at the provincial level and on a national scale; combine labor with lands more effectively; invest more labor to exploit lands through intensive farming and multicropping or at the least, double-cropping while enlarging the cultivated area in each province and the whole country to cultivate 10 million hectares of agricultural lands; reclaim and cultivate the remaining more than 3 million hectares of agricultural lands; and place under effective control more than 15 million hectares of forest lands. This must be done to ensure that every hectare of land will be used rationally to bring about the highest return for the country and that all the laboring people will be employed with good labor productivity and high man-day value.

The development of the new economic zones, agriculture and forestry, coupled with the redistribution of labor and population on a national scale, is a great revolutionary cause of profound economic, political, social and national defense significance in both the short and long terms, which our generation must undertake. From densely populated regions, chiefly in the Red River Delta and the central coastal plains, where the average land ratio is very low, we must send millions of people, including laboring people, to the new economic zones for agricultural and forestry work; reclaim and turn millions of hectares of land into rice areas in the Mekong Delta and areas for short and long-term industrial crops in eastern Nam Bo, the central highlands and the northern border regions; and create new production forces out of the existing labor and lands. It is necessary to develop the spirit of self-reliance and take advantage of our tropical agriculture and forestry to expand the possibility of cooperation with fraternal countries. These are targeted programs that must be developed on a rational basis and scrupulously carried out to meet all economic, political, social, national defense and security requirements.

Economic goals are linked with social goals. In developing new economic areas, we are also building new population centers where the newcomers live and work together with the local people. The labor force to be sent to the new economic zones will consist of workers skilled in the various essential branches and trades as well as cadres and key workers who are highly qualified both politically and professionally. The state must concentrate efforts on carrying out this strategic task of redistributing labor and population. Priority must be given to reserving capital investments, supplies, raw material and transportation means for the distribution of labor and the development of new economic zones. The state has adopted various policies such as those for investments and credit, land allotment and tax exemption in the initial period to encourage the people to open new lands and leave for new economic areas either collectively or privately. Together with the central government, all localities and the people must join in this great undertaking.

The people must develop the spirit of self-reliance, contribute capital and means and intensify mutual assistance. Those who stay must help those who leave; local people must help the new comers; and old resettlers must help new ones. Localities must establish sister relations at the corresponding level--province with province,

district with district and village with village--and assume greater responsibility at both ends. Localities of departure are responsible for the resettlers until their arrival at the destination; and localities of destination must carefully receive and care for the newcomers.

By correctly applying the motto "the state and the people work together," the appropriate assistance given by the state will help develop and increase the effectiveness of the people's efforts and create a combined strength necessary for building the new economic zones successfully.

In proceeding with this work, we must look far ahead, make all-round arrangements and long-term calculations, and score success with every step forward to prepare for the next stage of development. We must be fully aware of our own strength and tackle easy tasks first before taking on difficult ones; and must carry out short-term activities to achieve long-term goals, for every crop season and every work assignment has the cumulative effect of building up the momentum for the next step of development.

On the basis of forest preservation and afforestation, we must, while opening new lands, protect the environment and lands by strictly observing technical requirements in order to control the erosion of the soil. It is necessary to practice intensive farming and business in a comprehensive manner and combine agriculture with the processing industry in order to ensure the economic results of investment.

The movement to redistribute labor and population on a national scale and to employ social labor effectively is a very profound and the most difficult mass movement. We must try to encourage the people to make up their minds to leave their beloved native lands for unfamiliar new economic zones where difficulties and hardships are unavoidable. It is necessary to develop a staunch revolutionary spirit and a whole-some outlook, and at the same time, to enhance the responsibility of the various organizations in charge. Some organizations have provided good and constant care for the resettlers from their point of departure to their destination by harmoniously coordinating with the localities situated along their itinerary.

We believe that under the party's leadership and with sufficient concern and efforts by the various sectors and echelons, we will be able to redistribute labor and population and rationally employ social labor with definite results and consequently contribute to creating a change in the national economy in the years ahead.

CSO: 4209/171

RAT POISON IN TALCUM POWDER UNDER INVESTIGATION

Paris DOAN KET in French 12 Dec 81 p 4

[Article by D.K.: "Rat Poison in Talcum Powder"]

[Text] "More than 150 babies killed by poisoned talcum powder in Ho Chi Minh City and other cities of South Vietnam." This might be just another fact, but the repercussions are disturbing enough, especially in the current climate*, that the hypothesis of a criminal--even an organized--action cannot be ruled out.

Fatal Hemorrhages

It all began last July in various pediatric institutions in Ho Chi Minh City and also in provincial cities, with what at first seemed to be an epidemic of meningeal hemorrhage in infants aged 15 days to 3 months. Fatalities increased very swiftly, bringing about the creation of a study commission made up of specialists from various institutions, chiefly from the Pediatric Research Center in Ho Chi Minh City. These studies led to the conclusion that the hemorrhagic syndrome afflicting the infants could not be of infectious origin. Simultaneously with the launching of an appeal to the international medical community (Switzerland, France, Belgium and the Netherlands) for specific medicines (particularly coagulants such as PPBS [expansion unknown]), Vietnamese specialists who were associated with foreign experts such as Dr Martin Bouyer**, conducted a detailed analysis of all possible carriers of poison--water, soap, food, clothing, etc. The poisoning agent was discovered in the talcum powder the mothers were using; the talcum was found to be mixed with a product, warfarin, which is commonly used in rat poisons. When ingested by the rat, warfarin prevents the blood from coagulating, and the animal dies as a result of any hemorrhage that may be caused by a scratch, a wound, etc. But (this was an important point for what was to follow) warfarin also acts through cutaneous contact; hence its effects on the babies. Talcum powder carrying the poison was found for sale in various city markets, packaged in a half dozen different ways and sold under names that were equally eye-catching: Dona, Mini, Cashmere, etc. The police discovered a manufacturing dispensary at 135/95 rue Hung Vuong, which was producing about 700 cans per

*That is to say, at a time when the American campaign accusing Vietnam of waging "chemical warfare" in Laos and Cambodia is at its height. See this issue of DOAN KET.

**Dr Bouyer is one of those who discovered that hexachlorophene had been mixed by mistake with the celebrated Morhange.

month. An investigation is under way and rumors are flying: there is talk of traffickers from Thailand, of a one-ton stockpile of warfarin, etc.

Some Questions to be Investigated

Although the affair has not yet come to a definite conclusion, one cannot help but ask oneself some disturbing questions:

Might it not be a simple case of "maximum profit," the dealers mixing together whatever comes to hand, to obtain cheap talcum powder?

The answer is no, because warfarin is an expensive product, costing about 100 times as much as "common" talc. A cost of which the manufacturers were probably aware, since the quantities of warfarin in their product did not exceed 6.5 percent, a fairly small amount in order to keep the expense down, but enough to be lethal (13 times the quantity in rat poison).

Could it have been a handling error, such as the one that occurred with the Morhange talcum powder?

This is not very likely, for talcum powder is normally yellowish white, whereas warfarin is pink. Moreover, the final product which is on sale is bluish, as if an attempt had been made to disguise its composition. And in this connection the manufacturers cannot have failed to take precautions to protect themselves, considering the large quantities of warfarin they were handling. Which proves that they were informed as to the properties of the poison, which leads us to--

A criminal operation?

If we accept the criminal action hypothesis, then we must also accept the hypothesis that it was an organized action. For not everyone is in a position to know that warfarin can poison by simple contact (see above). Similarly, not everyone knows what quantity is lethal for an infant. Finally, it must be pointed out that similar (though less serious) symptoms of poisoning have been seen in older children and adults. Such cases are not caused by warfarin or talcum powder, but by a product called coumarin, which consists of crystals that become toxic when they are oxidized. If these poisoning phenomena were to continue, the psychological effect on the population would be considerable.

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